

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SS-15 NSC-05 CCO-00 EB-07 FCC-01 OC-05 COME-00 BIB-01

/075 W

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R 181415Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 161

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO JCS (J6) WASHDC

DCA WASHDC

MCEB WASHDC

OTP WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLO SACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 878

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: NJCEC AGENDA ITEM - NATO SATCOM PHASE III LAUNCH PLAN

REF: NICSMA-D/51

1. JOINT COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS WORKING GROUP (JCEWG) DISCUSSED NICSMA-D/51 ON FEBRUARY 12, 1975. MICSMA REPRESENTATIVE (LE HARDY) SUPPLEMENTED THE DOCUMENT WITH ORAL STATEMENT OF EFFECT THAT ORBITAL MECHANICS CONSTRAINT ON LAUNCH TIME (PARA 9 OF REF) NOW APPEARS TO BE MUCH REDUCED. HE STATED, CONTRARY TO PARA 12 OF THE REF, NICSMA STILL PREFERS OPTION C. HE DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAILED REASONS, STATING THAT NICSMA AND ITS AGENT (USAF SPACE AND MISSILES ORGANIZATION) WILL PRESENT A COMPLETE BRIEFING TO THE NATO CONFIDENTIAL

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JOINT COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE (NJCEC) AT THE MARCH 1975 MEETING. HE STATED FURTHER THAT NICSMA HAS NOT FIRMLY FIXED ITS PLANNED LAUNCH DATE FOR THE THIRD SPACE CRAFT (THE REFURBISHED QUALIFICATION MODEL). THE JCEWG REQUESTED

THAT NICSMA GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO POSTPONING THIS DATE  
AS LONG AS POSSIBLE TO LENGTHEN THE OVERALL SYSTEM LIFE.

2. MISSION EXPECTS NICSMA WILL PROPOSE A VARIATION OF OPTION  
C TO NJCED. THE VARIATION PROBABLY WILL BE DELAY IN LAUNCH OF  
THIRD SATELLITE. MISSION BELIEVES THAT NICSMA CAN AFFORD A  
HIGHER RISK BECAUSE OF THE NATO-UK-US MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-  
STANDING GOVERNING CONTINGENT USE OF SATELLITE RESOURCES.  
THEREFORE MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THIRD SATELLITE LAUNCH  
BE DELAYED LONGEST TIME TECHNICALLY AND OPERATIONALLY  
FEASIBLE. THIS COURSE SHOULD MINIMIZE LIFE-CYCLE COST.  
BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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